

## **BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, July 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilor Washington and Deputy Mayor Schulman

Also present was: Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilor Neuwirth

Guest were: Valerie Rossetti and Chip Canty

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Marguerite Phillips, Town Clerk gave a brief status report regarding current vacancies of boards and commissions.

#### **Central Regional Tourism District**

Councilor Washington spoke with the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) regarding this vacancy. He will follow and check with updates for interested parties for this appointment.

#### **Hartford Area Cable TV Advisory Council**

Deputy Mayor Schulman will follow up with Mayor Gamble for a recommendation regarding an appointment to this board.

#### **Metropolitan District Advisory Commission**

This is an ad hoc committee and the town could recommend an appointment to the District Chairman for a representation in Bloomfield.

#### **North Central Regional Mental Health Board**

Councilor Washington will contact Ms. Leslie Woods regarding her interest to continue serving on this board.

#### **Advisory Committee on Services to People with Disabilities**

This subcommittee will review the need of purpose for this board. This committee has not been active for several years. Councilor Washington mentioned this board to the DTC. Ms. Philips will ask Attorney Marc Needelman, Town Attorney if there are legal requirements to continue with this board.

### **Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to reappoint the following individuals to the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission, with term ending November 2017, disclosure required:

- Kenneth Bennett
- Alan Budkofsky
- Joy E. Chance
- Wendell Duncan
- Howard Hunter
- David Mann

### **Ethics Commission**

This commission still has a vacancy for an unaffiliated member (Democrats fill this seat). A disclosure is required and term ending June 30, 2018. By appointing this vacancy it can assure the Commission to meet its required quorum of five members so they can hold their meetings and conduct business.

### **CEEC**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to appoint Julius Clark to the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC) with term ending November 2017, disclosure required.

### **EMS**

Councilor Washington will speak with Pat Braun regarding any interest or recommendation to fill the Democratic vacancy, with term ending November 2017, no disclosure required.

### **Fair Rent Commission**

This commission has a Republican vacancy, no disclosure required with term ending one year from date of appointment. Ms. Philips will continue to follow up with Mr. Bob Ike, Chair of the Republican Town Committee (RTC) for recommendations. If there are no suggestion from the Republican party, the town will solicit recommendation for an unaffiliated member.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to reappoint the following individuals to the Fair Rent Commission, no disclosure required and term ending one year from date of appointment:

- Joy E. Chance
- Barbara Thornton

- Abraham Ford
- August Walek

### **Public Comment**

1. **Valerie Rossetti, 88 Kenmore Road,** expressed concerns regarding the protocol to appoint members to boards and commissions. Ms. Rossetti mentioned the DTC nominating a candidate and is forwarded to the Committee on Committees for appointment.

Ms. Rossetti is advocating for Mr. Kevin Hussein who was nominated by the DTC this past Spring. It was noted that Mr. Hussein was asked to submit a resume for review and consideration for appointment to the CEEC. Ms. Rossetti stated that no members ever submitted a resume in the past to participate with a voluntary committee. Mr. Hussein's nomination was not considered or mentioned as a candidate for vacancy on the CEEC during the course of this meeting. In the last CEEC meeting, there was no mention of the Mr. Julius Clark as an interest for the CEEC vacancy.

Ms. Rossetti expressed her disappointment with this subcommittee regarding protocol for appointments. She listed several qualifications of Mr. Hussein regarding his occupation as a civil engineer, LEED certified with expertise and was endorsed by the CEEC as a candidate.

Councilor Washington stated that no one from the Committee on Committees nominated Mr. Hussein. All nominations are recommended by the Chair of Committee on Committees. Councilor Washington also indicated that he and Mr. David Baram, Chair of the DTC approximately one month ago. Councilor Washington stated that Mr. Baram expressed interest regarding Mr. Hussein interest in participation with town activities, however his name was never presented to the Committee on Committees for consideration.

At that time, Councilor Washington told Mr. Baram that he had a candidate in mind to fill the vacancy on the CEEC. It was noted that the Chair of this subcommittee is in charge of selecting a candidate for appointment. Councilor Washington also stated that he was unaware of who asked Mr. Hussein to submit a resume, which was never forwarded or received by Committee on Committees.

Councilor Washington spoke with Mr. Julius Clark regarding his interest in the CEEC approximately one month ago. Mr. Clark is a former police officer from the Washington D.C. area. Mr. Clark is a democrat and has been a town resident for the past two years.

The subcommittee briefly discussed specific criteria or expertise to serve on a board or commission. However, specific qualifications can be an advantage to the committee. They are important but not required.

Ms. Philips noted that no one e-mailed her for recommendation to serve on the CEEC. Ms. Philips and Deputy Mayor Schulman also gave a brief explanation of the process on nominations from the town committees and forwarded to Committee on Committees.

Deputy Mayor Schulman stated that he has no doubt Mr. Hussein is qualified and interested to serve.

Ms. Rossetti stated that there were discussions with the Mayor Gamble, Mr. Baram and Councilor Neuwirth regarding the nomination of Mr. Hussein, without Councilor Washington being unaware.

Councilor Washington did not state that he was unaware, however he did state that another candidate was being considered for appointment.

Ms. Rossetti requested clarification regarding the sole discretion of the Chair of Committee on Committees for appointment to any board or commission. She also inquired about Mr. Hussein nomination be reconsidered if there was a switch in party affiliation to an unaffiliated from Democrat.

Currently, there are four minor party (Republican or unaffiliated) and six Democrats. The subcommittee had a brief discussion regarding state statutes and town charter requirements.

Deputy Mayor Schulman suggested the submission of a written opinion from the Town Attorney for clarification relative to bare majority and appointments on the CEEC.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.